

# *Lele Makou No Na Puali* **LIGHTNING ATTACK** ⚡

1-25th Newsletter ♦ An FRG Publication for Soldiers & Spouses

## **YOUR FRG NEWSLETTER**

The purpose of your 1-25 Family Readiness Group newsletter is to pass along family support news and information related to the 1-25 mission. Your ideas and comments are always welcome. Please contact the Editor if you have an idea for an article or would like to contribute an article to the Lightning Attack newsletter.

### **The 1-25 Newsletter**

**PURPOSE:** This newsletter is intended to provide the soldiers and family members of the 1-25th Aviation Regiment with general information, unit training and family support news. The information presented in this newsletter is true and correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. The contents, views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

## **The Commander's Corner**

Aloha again, and Lightning Attack!

This is the battalion's much-anticipated last deployed newsletter! As I am sure you have heard through the FRG and your deployed Soldiers, we are on track for redeployment. Although we will not firm up the exact dates for another couple of weeks, rest assured we are on schedule to get all of the Soldiers back with the vast majority returning home soon.

As I reflect back on these past months, I am amazed at what your Soldiers have accomplished. Your aviators have flown more combat hours than any other Aviation Battalion in the Army and your maintainers have kept the fleet flying with record setting readiness rates, day in and day out. As a team, they have supported many different ground maneuver brigades, from several different divisions. This was only possible through your Soldiers dedication to mission accomplishment and your terrific support from home. Accomplishing the unimaginable has become routine and I can easily say your Soldiers are a true reflection of the greatness of our Nation. They are the very best of the best and you can be very proud of them and all that they have accomplished...I certainly am.

This has been a busy and tough month for the battalion. Combat operations have been intense and your Soldiers continued to carry the day as they have done for the past many months. Executing numerous critical missions, the battalion has played an integral role in setting the conditions for the upcoming Iraqi elections and bringing the Coalition's highly successful operations in Fallujah to conclusion.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 2—



As always, the aircrews continue to execute the most difficult and challenging operations with great courage and heroism, providing critical reconnaissance, security and close combat attacks in support of our fellow Soldiers operating on the ground. And the real heroes behind the scenes, the maintainers, support and staff Soldiers, worked countless hours making the sure the aircraft were ready to fly, the vehicles ready to drive and all of the other functions in the battalion supported the fight.

As we now enter our last months of combat operations, it is important that we remain focused on the mission. We have much to do and your continued support of our Soldiers is especially critical during this time to ensure they remain focused on the important tasks at hand. I know the holidays will be a tough time for all of us, but we each can take comfort in knowing that the reunion with our loved ones is soon. Staying focused on the remaining mission is the most important thing to make that a reality.

Although there is much to be thankful for as we near the end of the deployment, it is important to remember our fallen comrades and their families. Last month we lost three of the very best. They each gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our Nation. MSG Lameka, CPT Johnson, and CW3 Brennan will forever be a part of the fabric of this battalion. They were three great people who epitomized the selfless professional Soldier; committed to the mission, their fellow Soldiers, their families and our Nation. To their families and loved ones, we share in your grief and you will always be in our thoughts and prayers. Each made an indelible mark on us all and we will not forget them.

As I close out our final newsletter, I once again would like to thank all of our families and loved ones for all of your sacrifices and support. You have been our strength and inspiration.

**LIGHTNING ATTACK!**  
Strike 06



**13 JANUARY!**

**FRG  
Re-deployment  
Briefing!**

**FINALLY!**

The one FRG meeting  
no one should miss:  
the Re-deployment Briefing,  
on Thursday, 13 January  
at 6:30 p.m.

★



**HAVE  
ANY  
CONCERNS?**

The 1-25 Aviation Rear  
Detachment Commander

**CPT M<sup>c</sup>AULIFFE**

*stands ready  
to assistance you,  
anytime, anywhere.*

**808.656.4540**

**808.497.6063**

ON...



**THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Lay off the late-night tur-key."

**THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Learn to ask for help and lay off the late-night tur-key."

**THE THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night tur-key."

**THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S... and, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Keep exercising, make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Try to get sunlight, keep exercising, make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Stay out of family squabbles, try to get sunlight, keep exercising, make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Vent when you need to, stay out of family squabbles, try to get sunlight, keep exercising, make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Stick to your budget, vent when you need to, stay out of family squabbles, try to get sunlight, keep exercising, make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

**THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS**, my best friend said to me, "Be optimistic, stick to your budget, vent when you need to, stay out of family squabbles, try to get sunlight, keep exercising, make new traditions, E-X-P-E-C-T P-R-O-B-L-E-M-S, don't drink too much wine, get to sleep on time, learn to ask for help, and lay off the late-night turkey."

—by MAJ Waits

AVN BDE Behavioral Health Liaison

# COMPANY NEWS

## HEADHUNTERS

Aloha and Season's Greetings from the Soldiers of the world-famous Headhunters. As I write this letter to you I am reflecting on many things: things that have happened here and at home, the wonderful accomplishments of our Soldiers, and the dedication and sacrifice that you and our Soldiers are making every day for the greater good of our Country and the World. As I do this, I am stricken with awe and pride by what everyone in the Headhunter family has done to make this mission a success. Family, friends, teamwork, and the indomitable Headhunter spirit are the cornerstones of that success.

One of the many indicators of success is promotion. It signifies and recognizes both accomplishments and the potential for future performance. Since our last newsletter, any Headhunters have been recognized. Based on their excellent performance and potential, SFC Sutton was promoted to Master Sergeant and SGT Sonnenberg to Staff Sergeant. SPC Pierce made the significant transition to Sergeant. Eight of our Soldiers have been promoted to Specialist: PFC Bennett, PFC Cooney, PFC Dorsey, PFC Muller, PFC Rodriguez, PFC Sledge, PFC Wilson, and PFC Yarbrough. Additionally, three officers have been promoted to Captain: 1LT Garrett, 1LT Russ, and 1LT Stewart. Congratulations to each of these great Soldiers.

The holiday season is upon us and it brings about an array of mixed emotions. We would all love to spend this time with our family and friends at home—evoking a certain level of sadness. However, the holiday season means that our time here is coming to a close and we will soon be reunited—giving comfort to each of us. That being said, I hope that everyone's holiday season is filled with happiness and joy and that safety continues to prevail in each of our lives.

Our remaining time in Iraq will be split between continuing our mission here and preparing for our return to Hawaii. There is much to be done to prepare for return. The motivation for our hard work comes from our family at home.

It is with great sadness that there is one person who will not join us for that flight. On October 11<sup>th</sup> MSG Lameka, who embodied the Headhunter spirit, passed away while home on leave. He worked hard, accomplished every mission he was given, and did it all with a contagious smile. While words can do little to console his wife family, yet, please know that Jim's family here in Iraq mourns with you. We have all lost a talented leader and a trusted friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

My sincere thanks goes out to each and everyone of you for your continued support and hard work. We've come a long way in this journey together and soon we will all be reunited back home—I look forward to making that a reality. We can have all the equipment and resources we want, but without the people and their families we can't accomplish anything. □

## DESPERADOS

The Desperados are still accomplishing miraculous feats on a daily basis. Our Soldiers are more proficient in their jobs than ever, which makes the current pace seem like a normal workday when in fact is an astounding feat. I attribute such success to the hard work and dedication each Soldier puts into their jobs and their personal desire to make a difference in support of OIF.

Promotion congratulations to PFC Morales, PFC Baker, and PFC Hettler—who were all promoted to Specialist. SPC Scott was promoted to Sergeant. SPC Hettler also earned the Soldier Maintainer of the Month for October for making the tool room a smooth operation. SSG McCrimmon earned the title for NCO Maintainer of the Month for October.

I encourage those who have not been part of the FRG to make contact. Information regarding our return will come through the FRG. We want you to get the latest news regarding our arrival and your Soldier wants to see your smiling face. Thank you again for your support and we look forward to coming home.

Desperados!

## REGULATORS

I enjoy sitting down to write these newsletters because they remind me that each one I write brings us closer to home. Our Soldiers continue to do great things here in Iraq, and we continue to see daily improvements and with the local populace. As I write these words, I realize how proud I am to be among such a great group, and I hope you are equally proud of your loved ones.

This month has been a busy one with the company flying at a record pace, enjoying the holidays, and looking forward to home. The temperatures have turned colder, which is quite a change from the summer months that we all complained so much about. Improvements here on the camp include new dining facilities and a PX opening recently.

Promote congratulations to PFC Chauvette, who was promoted to Specialist, and 1LTs Mears and Sun who both became Captains. CPT Mears' promotion was a special treat, as we were able to conduct the ceremony on a remote video-teleconference, the first such promotion that I have been a part of. CPT Mears continues to recover well from his injuries. Mr. Boushey is also feeling better.

Our return home to family and friends is just around the corner, but there is still much work to do here. I'm proud of the focus and dedication that our Soldiers have. Thank you all for the dedication and hard work, taking care of both the Company here, and our families back home.

Regulator 06

## GHOSTRIDERS

The Ghostriders continue to set the standard for day-to-day combat operations in Iraq. It is hard to believe that we have been deployed for so long, and that we will be home soon. I am so proud of the Soldiers in this company and all that they have been able to accomplish here. I know that everyone is looking forward to our return.

Welcome to 1LT Andreson and family. Also, welcome to SSG Lopez and family, who comes to us from Fort Hood.

Promotion congratulations to LT Miller to Captain and PFC Copeland to Specialist. Both promotions are well deserved, and I know that both will handle the increased responsibility that comes with an increase in rank without fail.

All the Ghostriders have participated in the EML. I tip my hat to all of our pilots and crew chiefs for making the effort to ensure that all of our Soldiers were allowed to participate.

To the friends and families of the Ghostriders, we couldn't do our jobs over here as effectively without your love, prayers, and support. The holiday season is coming up, and it is a tough time to be separated from our loved-ones. As the redeployment plan starts to firm up, the light at the end of the tunnel continues to get brighter. Again, thank you all for all of your support.

Happy Holidays!  
Ghost rider 06

## OUTLAWS

As all of you know, the Outlaws lost two of our own outstanding Soldiers, CPT Johnson and CW3 Brennan. No words can truly express the sorrow we feel. They shared a passion for their jobs and believed in the mission and the good progress we are making in Iraq. They were great men and Soldiers, men of great character, intellect, and humor, who loved their families and they served this Nation with honor. Their presence is with us, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Recently, three junior enlisted Outlaw crew chiefs were promoted. Congratulations to newly minted Specialists Kassler, Newman, and Gutierrez. Each promotion was well deserved. These three soldiers are integral to the company. We can all be proud of the work that they do. We have executed, in terms of flight hours, an amazing amount. This is no small achievement, and a reflection of the tremendous professionalism and technical competence of our crew chiefs and pilots alike.

As we look toward the remaining days of deployment, we note the upcoming holiday season. This will be a tough time for all of us, but it marks closure to our deployment. We all very much look forward to our reunion with our loved ones, but also know that we must remain focused on the mission here.

Thank you to all of the families for your terrific support of our Soldiers. You are the real heroes of the deployment and have been our inspiration.

Outlaw 06

## FROM THE FRG

With the end of this deployment in sight, I would like to share this poem with you.

What Is Inner Strength?  
—By Emily Matthews

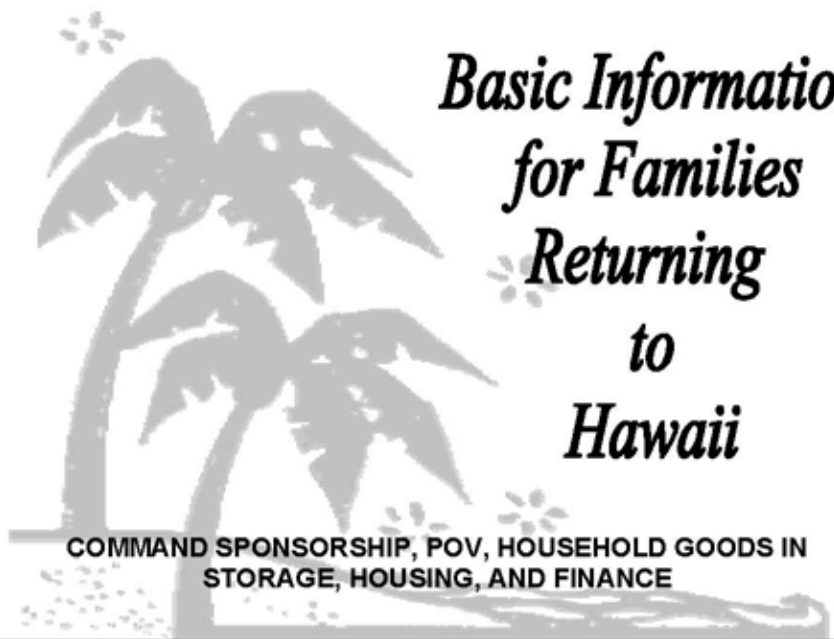
We may not know we have it  
Till we're well into the race,  
Or feel we're nearly  
overwhelmed,  
By challenges we face—  
But then we look much deeper  
For the power to succeed,  
And find we have an inner  
strength  
That meets our greatest need.

I know all of you have the inner strength to complete this deployment with success. I am so proud of all the things you have accomplished. Staying positive and having faith and patience will see us to the end.

We will keep everyone informed on Redeployment info as we receive it. It is important to ensure your FRG Leader has your correct phone number and e-mail address. If you don't know who that is please call the Rear Detachment Commander at (808) 656-4540.

There are a lot of great opportunities being offered by ACS for Reunion information. I have attended a few of these sessions recently and I always hear new helpful information. Every deployment is different. There are a lot of resources available. Please take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. **You can never go wrong by being proactive.**

*Happy Holidays*  
Paula



For those families returning to Hawaii, here are the main issues and point of contact information for those needing Command Sponsorship, POV and Household Goods retrieval, and/or Housing.

### **Command Sponsorship.**

If a family member(s) departed Hawaii and is now seeking to reestablish themselves back in Hawaii, it is extremely important to identify the terms or circumstances which they departed under. This will have a direct impact on the procedures they need to follow in order to reestablish themselves here in the Hawaii Military community. Call 655-1804/9272 for more information.

### **Removal of POV from Storage.**

Call the Pasha Group at (808) 295-9980 to coordinate the pick up of your stored POV.

### **Removal and Delivery of Household Goods from Storage.**

Go to Bldg 690, Room 1C (the Aloha Center) Schofield Barracks or call (808) 655-1868

or 8963 from 0700-1600, Monday through Friday to schedule a local delivery.

### **Obtaining On-Post Housing.**

Housing on-post is quite limited. Please contact the Schofield Barracks Housing Office at (808) 275-3700 (Fax) 275-3729; or the Fort Shafter Housing Office at (808) 275-3800 (Fax) 842-7506 as soon as possible. You can also check the Housing website: [www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com](http://www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com)

### **Finance.**

TLA is **NOT** authorized for families returning to Hawaii. Temporary Lodging and transportation expenses are the responsibility of the family member(s). Contact the 125<sup>th</sup> Finance Office at (808) 655-1023.

### **Rear Detachment Commander.**

Contact the Rear Detachment Commander if you need assistance. Relocating families need to contact their FRG Leaders upon return with your new contact information, so that vital redeployment information can be given. □

# Army Holiday Celebration

**24 DECEMBER**  
**4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.**  
**AT THE Nehelani**  
**ON SCHOFIELD**



Single soldiers and Army Families are invited to enjoy a **FREE** turkey dinner with all the fixins, card and sporting event tournaments, a visit with Santa, karaoke contest, door prizes, train rides & more...

Presents will be distributed to all **SINGLE SOLDIERS**. Santa will also have presents for registered family members (18 & under). To register your family (by 4 p.m., Dec 22) log on to our website: <<[www.mwrarmyhawaii.com](http://www.mwrarmyhawaii.com)>> or call us at (808) 655-0111/0112.

## Schedule:

- ★ 4:00 - Register for tournaments
- ★ 4:00 - dusk - Train
- ★ 4:00 - 7:30 - Jumpers
- ★ 4:30 - Spades Tournament
- ★ 4:30 - 9-Ball Tournament
- ★ 4:30 - dusk - Basketball Free Throw Contest
- ★ 5:30 - 6:30 - Santa
- ★ 7:00 - Karaoke— 1st Place wins \$100!



## JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT THE TROPICS

- ★ 18 December 2004, at 10:00am; Cost \$5 ages 9 and over; \$3 for ages 8 and under. Breakfast Menu includes: Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Juice (Coffee available for Adults) Please call 655-0002 or 655-5697 or 655-5698 to make your reservations! Each child registered will receive a special gift from Santa! Have your picture taken Santa for just \$3! (MWR Event)

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

- ★ F Quad will be the only dining facility open on Christmas Day. The schedule will be:  
 Breakfast 0800-0900  
 Lunch: 1130-1300  
 Dinner: 1530-1700  
 Lunch is the main meal of the day—the price is \$5.40.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS IN HAWAII WHEN:

- ★ The only snow you see is in a cone shaped cup and covered with syrup.
- ★ Santa arrives on the beach in a canoe.
- ★ Winter clothes are a sweat-shirt, a jacket and shorts.
- ★ Diamond Head is majestic and green.
- ★ "Silent Night" is played on the ukulele.
- ★ It's macadamia nut candy instead of fruitcake.
- ★ You leave your slippers and sandals at the door, not your snow boots.
- ★ You have to build a fireplace to hang your stockings.
- ★ Little boys want a new boogie board instead of a shiny new sled.
- ★ Little girls wish for Hawaiian heirloom bracelets.
- ★ "Me ke aloha" (with love) is written on holiday cards.

## Schofield Barracks has a new Patient Rep!



A new Schofield  
Patient Rep can be  
reached by phone at  
(808) 433-8504.

The Patient Rep can  
help you with a variety of health-care issues.

If you are experiencing ANY healthcare  
difficulty, give call their office.

## The Miscellaneous Minutes

In accordance with directives issued by the Department of Defense, the 25th Infantry Division is implementing the appropriate measures to safeguard our soldiers, civilians, and family members. Updated information can be found on **HACNTV2** and on the 25th Infantry Division website: [www.25idl.army.mil/](http://www.25idl.army.mil/)

This Family Readiness Group (FRG) Newsletter contains official information and complies with the provisions of AR 380-81 and AR 25-51 for the dissemination of FRG Newsletters.

DECEMBER						
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JANUARY 2005!						
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# LIGHTNING ATTACK

1ST BATTALION, 25TH AVIATION NEWSLETTER  
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
HAWAII

DECEMBER 2004